

THE CLAIMS:

The claims in the instant application are set forth below.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling user spending of a user purchasing television programs ~~processing user programming request~~, comprising the steps of:

detecting a user request;

providing a plurality of selectively actuatable entries for single-user spending limits each spending limit being associated with a different-length time period, in response to the user request;

receiving selection of at least one of the plurality of selectively actuatable entries and a spending limit for the selected at least one of the plurality of selectively actuatable entries; ~~and~~

tracking user spending on purchasing television programs during the time period associated with each selected entry; and

notifying the user, when purchasing a television program would exceed the spending limit during the time period for any selected entry.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing a selection for a rolling time period.

3. (CURRENT AMENDED) The method of claim 1, wherein the notifying step comprises the step of ~~further comprising the step of~~ generating a user warning when the user spending exceeds the spending limit during the time period for any selected entry.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of allowing the user to override the user spending limit.

5. (CANCELLED)

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 ~~5~~ further comprising the steps of performing a check to see if a spending limit for a shorter time period is greater than a spending limit entry for a longer time period; and providing a the user warning if the spending limit for the shorter time period is greater.

7-10. (CANCELLED)

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for controlling user spending of a user purchasing television programs, comprising ~~processing a user programming request:~~

a user controller for entering a user request; and

a television apparatus comprising

means for providing a plurality of selectively actuatable entries for single-user spending limits each spending limit being associated with a different-length time period, in response to the user request;

means for receiving selection of at least one of the plurality of selectively actuatable entries and a spending limit for the selected at least one of the plurality of selectively actuatable entries; ~~and~~

means for tracking user spending during the time period associated with each selected entry; and

means for notifying the user, when purchasing a television program would exceed the spending limit during the time period for any selected entry.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~An~~ A television apparatus for controlling user spending of a user purchasing television programs ~~processing user programming request,~~ comprising:

a user interface for receiving a user request;

means for providing a plurality of spending limit entries for a single user each entry corresponding to a different time period, in response to the user request;

means for receiving selection of ~~and~~ a spending limit for at least one of the spending limit entries; ~~and~~

means for tracking user spending during each different time period for which a spending limit was received; and

means for notifying the user, when purchasing a television program would exceed the spending limit during the time period for any selected entry.

13. (NEW) The television apparatus of claim 12, wherein the receiving means performs a check to see if a spending limit for a shorter time period is greater than a spending limit entry for a longer time period; and provides the user warning if the spending limit for the shorter time period is greater.